

Serial Nr.: 09/977,589
Art Unit: 2835

UPA-01208

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, amend paragraph [0001] as:

[0001] The present invention relates to a safety switch that has a bimetal plate movably engaged with a gap defined in a switch member so that even if the switch member is stuck under overload condition ~~and the current overrides~~, the circuit can still be opened.

Pages 1-2, amend paragraph [0002] as:

[0002] A conventional see-saw switch as shown in Fig. 1 includes a switch member 11 having a protrusion 110 which movably presses a plate 12 so that two contacts on two ends of the plate 12 can be respectively pushed to contact a corresponding contact point. This type of switch cannot be automatically cut off when it is under overload condition ~~overridden~~. Figures 2A and 2B show a switch disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,262,748 which includes a switch member 13 which has one end connected to a connection plate 14 which is connected to a bimetal plate 170. A curve resilient plate 18 has one end connected to the casing 10 of the switch device and the other end connected to one end of the bimetal plate 170. Three terminal plates 15, 16, 17 are connected to the casing 10 of the switch device and the bimetal plate 170 has the other end thereof connected to the terminal plate 17. A contact point 171 is connected on the bimetal plate 170 and another contact point 160 is connected to the terminal plate 16. The bimetal plate 170 is lowered by pushing the switch member 13 to close the circuit. When the switch is under overload condition ~~the current overrides~~, the bimetal plate 170 is deformed to separate the two

Serial No.: 09/977,589
Art Unit: 2835

UPA-01208

contact points 171, 160. However, if the switch member 13 is stuck or if the resilient plate 18 fails, the bimetal plate 170 will not be deformed. Besides, if the deformation force of the bimetal plate 170 is larger than the force of the resilient plate 18, the resilient plate 18 will keep the bimetal plate 170 at an open status. If the users push the switch member 13 again, the bimetal plate 170 will jump off again, and this could result in sparks and has potential danger.

Page 2, amend paragraph [0003] as:

[0003] Figures 3A and 3B show a Taiwanese published patent No. 334165 which includes a switch member 20 with a driving member 21 which is slidably engaged with a connection member 22. A spring 24 is connected between the driving member 21 and an inside of the casing of the switch device. A bimetal plate 23 has one end thereof fixed to one of two terminal plates of the casing and the other end engaged with the connection member 22. The bimetal plate 23 contacts the other terminal plate when the switch member 20 is pushed. When the switch is under overload condition ~~current overrides~~, the bimetal plate 23 is deformed and pushes the driving member 21 to let a convex portion of the driving member 21 engage with a recess 25 defined in an inside of the casing, and the bimetal plate 23 is separated from the terminal plate. When either one of the switch member 20, the driving member 21 or the connection member 22 is out of order or stuck, the circuit cannot be opened. If the spring force of the spring 24 is too large, then the bimetal plate 23 cannot jump off from the terminal plate, and if the spring force of the spring 24 is too small, then the bimetal plate 23 could jump off often.

Pages 2-3, amend paragraph [0004] as:

Serial No.: 09/977,589
Art Unit: 2835

UPA-01208

[0004] Figures 4A, 4B and 4C show a switch device disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,760,672 which includes a switch member 28 which has one end connected to a connection member 26 which has a hook portion for receiving an end of a bimetal plate 27. Three terminal plates are connected to the casing of the switch device and a contact point 271 on the bimetal plate 27 is to contact another contact point 272 on one of the terminal plates. A gap ΔS is defined in the hook portion so as to allow the bimetal plate 27 to be deformed. However, this type of switch can only be used with a specific type of see-saw switch member. Besides, because the connection member 26 extends through a hole in the bimetal plate 27, if either one of the horizontal parts 261, 262 of the hook portion of the bimetal plate 27 is stuck or jammed by the hole in the bimetal plate 27, the bimetal plate 27 could not jump off. When the temperature drops, the deformed bimetal plate 27 will contact the contact point 272 again. Because the overload condition overridden situation is not released, the circuit will be opened and closed repeatedly.

Pages 3-4, amend paragraph [0008] as:

[0008] Fig. 1 is a cross sectional view to show a see-saw type switch device;

Figs. 2A and 2B show the open status and the close status of a switch device disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,262,748;

Figs. 3A and 3B show the open status and the close status of a switch device disclosed in Taiwanese published patent No. 334165;

Figs. 4A, 4B and 4C show the open status and the close status of a switch device disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,760,672;

Serial Nr.: 09/977,589
Art Unit: 2835

UPA-01208

Fig. 5 is an exploded view to show a safety switch device of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view to show an OFF status of the safety switch device of the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view to show an ON status of the safety switch device of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a cross sectional view to show that the tongue of the bimetal plate is deformed when the switch is under overload condition ~~current overrides~~ and the protrusion of the bimetal plate is moved within the recess of the connection member;

Fig. 9A shows the bimetal plate used in the safety switch device of the present invention;

Fig. 9B shows two legs of the bimetal plate used in the safety switch device of the present invention are pushed toward each other, and

Figs. 10A and 10B show that the tongue of the bimetal plate used in the safety switch device of the present invention is deformed in two different directions.

Page 5, amend paragraph [0010] as:

[0010] A switch member 4 is pivotally connected to a top hole 30 defined in the casing 3 and a lug 41 extends from an underside of an end of the switch member 4. A connection member 5 has one end 51 engaged with a hole 42 defined in the lug 41, and the other end of the connection member 5 has a recess 52. The protrusion 60 at an end of the bimetal plate 6 is movably located in the recess 52. When the left end of the switch member 4 is pushed, the protrusion 60 is pushed by an inside of the recess 52 so that the tongue 62 is

Serial No.: 09/977,589

UPA-01208

Art Unit: 2835

raised away from the first contact point 71 to cut off the circuit as shown in Fig. 6. As can be seen in Fig. 5, the connection member 5 is an E-shaped member having upper and lower recesses. The upper recess allows the top end 51 of the connection member to be engaged with the hole 42 formed in the lug 41.

Page 6, amend paragraph [0012] as:

[0012] Referring to Figs. 8, 10A and 10B, when the switch is under overload condition ~~current-overrides~~ and the switch member 4 or the connection member 5 is jammed or stuck and cannot be pivoted, the width ΔS of the recess 52 is wide enough to allow the protrusion 60 to move therein, and the tongue 62 is deformed upward from the position as shown in Fig. 10A to the position as shown in Fig. 10B to cut off the circuit.